

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

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A Suppressed Poem.

(By ROBERT BURNS.)

The appended suppressed poem of Robert Burns was recited to me from memory by a Burns' enthusiast of 75 years of age. It is more than 20 years since he got the poem from the Poet's Box.

JAS. BIRRELL.

How blindly we are taught to view the
Divine Power.

To gull the mob and keep them under
The ancients tell their tales o' wonder,
A pious fraud, a Holy blunder,
A rainbow sign.
An earthquake, or a blast o' thunder,
Or Hell Divine.

To those who are inclined to swallow doses
A wondrous story nothing loses,
The dexterous feats ascribed to Moses
Are proofs so plain.
By sleight-o'-haun Hermon poses,
Legerdemain.

To those that believe in tradition
Let sense ta' place o' superstition
The Royal magic competition
And Sacred fountain.
O' could a midge by faith's violation
Enlarge to a mountain.

The God o' mercy just and good
Held forth as in an angry mood
Drooned the world in a flood
To punish Haman,
Turned waters into blood,
Just like a demon.

He murdered thousands in a trice,
Swarmed Egypt of rogues and lice,
Had he made coos o' sheep and rice
His hungry hordes then,
Wad, ilka ane, hae got a slice
And thanked the Lord then.

Wi' hokus-pokus, rod and haun
Like mother's goose, his magic wand,
They could the elements command,
As legions run,
Divide the sea, or burn the land,
Or stop the Sun.

The great bombasts surpasses,
Like dykes the ocean stood in masses,
They had fleeing prophets, speaking asses,
Forby a sawt wife,
And amorous ghosts o'er cam' the lasses.
Wha lived that life.

They said Samson's strength lay in his hair
Their sterling waiters jealous were,
Clouds of fire cam' thro' the air,
Like brimstone danders;
Saints lived in fire by virtue rare,
Like Salamanders.

The Apostle Paul by fancy whim,
Soared up to Heaven as in a dream,
But Satan brought him back, it wad seem.
So says himsel'.
But hoo could Nick to Heaven climb
Wha's chained tae Hell.

This damn'd and wily serpent Nick
Promised long a mighty trick.
He played the trick on God's first-born
And got him scorged,
Nailed tae a stick
And crooned wi' thorns.

Now search the subject thro' the piece,
It's fraught wi' blunders such as these,
That Reverend Priests their flocks may
fleeca,
Wi' wily conscience,
And teach human being by degrees,
Tae swallow nonsense.

The Royal Dignitaries o' each function
Set God's Kingdom up for auction,
A lump and bargain
Drive silly mortals tae destruction,
By their dam'd jargon.

But commonsense shall gain the day,
Loomed by Nature's glorious ray
Atheism shall flee away,
Wi' priests and de'il's;
Sound reason shall her sceptre away
Hard at her heels.
—From "The Spur," London.



Economy?

An Extract.

(From "The Galley Slave's Ring," by
Eugene Sue.)

"Permit me, Monsieur George, to put a question to you. You may answer it if you think proper."

"I listen, Monsieur."

"About fifteen months ago, shortly after your discharge from the army, you expected to marry?"

"Yes, Monsieur."

"A young flower girl, an orphan named Josephine Elot?"

"Yes, Monsieur; it is all so."

"Will you tell me the reason why the marriage did not take place?"

The young man colored; an expression of pain contracted his countenance; he hesitated to answer.

Lebrenn watched him attentively. Pained and surprised at George's silence, he could not withhold a bitter and severe cry:

"I see—seduction; then abandonment and oblivion. Your embarrassment proclaims it all but too loudly."

"You are mistaken, Monsier," George quickly answered. "My embarrassment and emotion are caused by cruel recollections. I shall tell you what happened. I never lie—"

"I know you do not, Monsieur George."

"Josephine dwelt in the same house with my employer. In that way I became acquainted with her. She was very pretty, and though illiterate, highly gifted. I knew she was inclined to work and poverty. I believed her wise. A bachelor's life weighted upon me. I

also thought of my grandfather. A wife would have assisted me in taking better care of him. I proposed marriage to Josephine. She seemed delighted, and she herself named the date of our wedding. They lied to you, Monsieur, who spoke of seduction and abandonment!"

"I believe you," said Lebrenn, cordially extending his hand to the young man. "I am happy to be able to believe you. But how did your marriage fall through?"

"A week before the day of our wedding Josephine disappeared, leaving a letter for me, saying all was broken off. I subsequently learned that, yielding to the evil advice of one of her girl friends, a lost woman, she followed her example. Having lived in misery all her life, enduring grievous privations, despite her long hours, twelve and fifteen of work a day, Josephine recoiled before the life that I offered her—as the wife of a workman—a life of toil and poverty like her own."

"And like so many others," interjected Lebrenn, "she succumbed to the temptations of a less toilsome life. Oh! Poverty! Poverty!"

"I have never seen Josephine again, Monsieur. She is now, I am told, a coryphée in one of the public dancing halls. In short, she is lost forever. And yet, the girl had excellent qualities of heart. You now understand, Monsieur, the cause of the sad emotion that came over me when you mentioned Josephine's name a minute ago." (P.P. 44.)

P.P. 154.—At the sight of Madam Lebrenn, the poor creature endeavored to smile. She gathered all the strength she could and said in a faint and broken voice:

"Madam—I asked to see you—before I die—in order to tell you the truth about George. I was an orphan; I worked at flower-making. I had suffered a good deal—underwent untold privation—but still I kept my character. I should say also, so as not to praise myself too highly, I had never been tempted," she added with a bitter sigh; and then she smiled:

"I met George upon his return from the army. I fell in love with him—I loved him—oh, I loved him dearly—for that pass—he was the only one. He was better than I—it was out of kindness that he offered to marry me. Unfortunately a girl friend crossed my way and led me astray. She had been a working girl, like my self, and misery had driven her to sell herself. I saw her rich, well-dressed—well-fed—she urged me to do as she had done—my head turned—I forgot George—but not for long—but for nothing in the world would I have dared to appear before him again."

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS.

Whoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we knew you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER AT LARGE, and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

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The only working class paper is a Socialist paper. The "International Socialist" is admittedly one of the best. Why not subscribe for it? Why not push it?

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The Amalgamation of Trade Unions.

AND THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

By C.F.C.

Two interesting events were chronicled last week. These events show the tendency of modern trade unionism—the tendency towards the amalgamation and federation of the separate craft unions.

Thus the Sydney "Sun": "The Barrier (Broken Hill) Branch of the A.M.A. has ceased to exist as a separate entity. It has been merged with the Australian Coal and Shale Employees' Association, the resolution 'in favour of wider unionism' being carried without a dissentient voice. The new organisation will be known as the Australian Coal, Shale and Metalliferous Employees' Association, with a membership roll of 24,000 members."

The distributing trades, too, are getting busy. The Adelaide "Daily Herald" says: "A conference was recently held in Sydney to bring about 'a system of closer unionism' in the distributing trades. Eleven unions were represented. Proposals are now being submitted to the unions concerned which, when finally adopted, will mean practically the amalgamation of all the distributing trade unions throughout Australia. About 150,000 employees are affected."

In 1915-16 one of Australia's biggest unions, the 'militant' A.W.U., was federated with the United Laborers. There can be no doubt as to the militancy of the former, for 20,000 of the A.W.U. have gone to the front, the absentees meanwhile being kept 'good' on the union's books.

The above examples show clearly the modern trend of trade unionism, and a pertinent question is:—

"How do these Amalgamations affect the Labor Movement? Do such Federations bring that Movement any nearer its goal—the control of industries and socially-necessary wealth, by and for the working class?" This is a vital question for us, since not one Socialist lives to-day, who can indicate with any degree of clearness, how Socialism can come into operation, other than on the lines of INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.

To see whether these Federations bring us nearer the goal let us consider the make up and ideals of their component craft unions. These craft unions stand for briefly:—

- (1) "A fair day's work for a fair day's pay."
- (2) Settlement of disputes by Arbitration—by which the "right" of the employing Capitalist class to Labor's product is recognised.
- (3) Better working conditions, e.g., slight wage advances, 48 or 44 hour week, etc.
- (4) Identity of interest between

worker and master." This belief is expressed clearly at the ballot box.

Not one of the units of the Federation, not even the most "militant" union, has any idea or intention, of trying to displace the present system of capitalism. Its members know nothing of Working Class Economics. They vote year in year out for "Labor" members, their true representatives, who deny the class struggle "legislating for ALL classes of the community" Their chosen representatives show the beliefs of the Craft Unionists by advocating schemes for Protective Tariffs, Conscription for Kids and the like. Tied up by their agreements, they scab, unconsciously, on their mates striking for better conditions. These are the units which are linked together into a modern Trade Union Federation.

Such an Amalgamation is simply a **Unity founded on Economic IGNORANCE**—"Unity" intended to get just the same things which a Craft Union is in existence to obtain. Judging them on their own beliefs, they are actually a buttress to the Capitalist System. There is no Class Consciousness in such Federations.

Go back a year. When the Broken Hill miners struck in 1916 for a 44-hour week, the Broken Hill section of the Amalgamated Engineers (H. A. Mitchell's Union) struck in sympathy with them. The Port Pirie section of the same Engineers' Federation, however, refused to aid the miners, handled the "black" goods, and thus scabbed on their own union members. Mitchell, by the way, the big gun official of the Federation, is now employed by the B. H. Proprietary Co. as its advocate, to beat down the class he then represented. He was, the employers observed, rather clever at twisting Federations!

The A.W.U. officials tried all they knew to beat some of their own members in the Moree (N.S.W.) district some time ago, when shearers there, were fighting for 30/- per 100.

Such Amalgamations have, and can have, no objective, in the sense of putting an end to the present Capitalist System. The old Craft Union Objective remains practically the same. Just as the separate crafts make their separate "agreements," each expiring at different times—the crux of organised scabbery—so the same performance is gone through when a Federation is in question, since each craft enjoys practically full autonomy. The economic ignorance of the new body is just as great as the economic ignorance of the smaller Craft Union. It, like the craft union, is a DEFENSIVE and not an OFFENSIVE weapon—not offensive in the sense of trying to control and operate the means of productive, but defensive or offensive in its wanderings around the palliative-circle of wage increases and shorter hours.

Socialists are not out merely to gain the workers wage increases and better working conditions, but to abolish the system of Production for Profit. The force necessary to do this and bring about the social ownership of the means of production and distribution is the organisation of CLASS CONSCIOUS workers into Revolutionary Industrial Unions. And such Unions cannot be brought into existence by passing a resolution and giving a universal transfer!

We see the Federation or Amalgamation type of organisation best developed in the United States under the banner of the American Federation of Labor, a huge nation-wide organisation under the leadership of Samuel Gompers. And that organisation formed, "in the interests of closer unionism" as our own Australian trades are linking up now, that mighty organisation, at this minute is—hush—where? That organisation, founded on Economic Ignorance, is solidly supporting President Wilson.

While speaking of the American Federation of Labor, it is interesting to note that "Borers from Within" were busy on that organisation for years, trying to change the Federation into a Socialistic Union with a revolutionary objective. Needless to say they failed. For, organised on the basis of Craft Unions, with craft union ideas like their Australian brothers, such Federations are simply Capitalistic Unions.

Speaking of "Boring from Within," Daniel De Leon says: "Boring from Within, with the Labor Fakir in possession, is a waste of time, and the only thing to do is to stand by the workers always; to organise them, to enlighten them. . . . and sound the note of sense."

Eugene Debs, too, was convinced of the

Prostitution.

Its Economic Basis.

BY M. REARDON.

The problem of prostitution is another of those great evils with which society is faced at the present time, and many and varied are the reforms which are concocted to do away with it, or at least keep it within bounds.

Prostitution and its attendant evil, venereal disease, are rapidly becoming a dangerous menace to the community, and therefore different solutions are offered for the double problem; but so far all have been unsuccessful.

It is inevitable they should be so, seeing that all remedies based on EFFECTS instead of CAUSES, must of necessity be ineffectual.

Let us study for a little the causes of prostitution, and we shall see how utterly the zealous reformers fail to hit at the root of the matter.

First of all, Who are the Prostitutes? Those unfortunate sisters of ours on whom the majority of women, unjustly in many cases, look down upon and despise, are manufactured by unschooled human nature and IMPERFECT SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

We must not forget either, that before there is a supply, there must necessarily be a demand, thus the question confronts us from whence comes the demand?

Ah! good old Capitalist System, you supply the answer once more.

It is an acknowledged fact that, under present conditions, marriage is becoming more difficult for the average wage worker day by day. Work is getting more uncertain, the cost of living more expensive, and men think more than once or twice before burdening themselves with a wife and children.

Again, capitalism necessitates a standing army and navy; soldiers and sailors, separated from their wives for indefinite periods, and all married or single leading un-natural lives.

These conditions then give rise to the demand. Human nature will have its way, hence the need for prostitutes.

It is of course an acknowledged fact that the "unfortunate women of the streets" are almost entirely recruited from the ranks of the working class.

Their occupations previously denote that.

To quote a few figures:—

Of 427 admitted to a London reformatory, 275 were servants, 25 laundry workers, 20 factory hands, 11 dressmakers, 6 barmaids and 33 indefinite.

futility of "Boring from Within." "There is but one way," he said, "to effect the great change, and that is for the working man to sever his connection with the American Federation of Labor, and join the union, that proposes on the economic field to represent his class."

A organisation, like the Workers' International Industrial Union, is out not to rival craft unions, or federations founded on them, but for the purpose of forming a LABOR union. It is concerned with something more than merely improving the conditions of Labor. The immediate interests of the working class must be improved through it, but "its primary object is to make an end of Labor as a slave function," and the establishment of an Industrial Republic.

Craft unions with their Federations or Amalgamations are absolutely useless to aid the removal of the Capitalist System, since their operations are not directed towards its overthrow, which is the Socialist Union's main consideration. Let us build up on the outside the necessary economic organisation formed on the class struggle basis. Such an organisation is the Workers' International Industrial Union, which "will move under the guns of a true Labor political party," to capture and operate the means of production and distribution for the benefit of the workers.

In another reformatory out of 675 cases 283 servants, 114 indefinite, 52 factory girls and 12 barmaids. That is in London. In Paris, Vienna, Stockholm and Munich figures show the same result.

These facts are surely significant, and point to causes which drive women out on to the streets to follow such a dreadful profession.

To-day the family and home life is frequently broken up; thousands of detached, friendless and more or less irresponsible members of both sexes crowd into big cities to earn a living. The conditions under which they live, so far from forming, actually disintegrated character and ambition. The situation is still further complicated by the continuous presence of a huge floating population, restlessly surging in and out in search of trade, excitement or amusement.

Within the more or less tightly closed circles characteristic of a simple community the members are mostly known to one another; consequently mutual demands in the manner of conduct, uphold the accepted ideal and tradition; and family and class morality sustain the weaker members.

To-day no one knows one's nearest neighbours. Temptation and inducement wax strongest, precisely where protection and restraint have become feeblest (Flexner, Prostitution in Europe.)

There are of course many women, who even under existing circumstances, would, and do, keep, to use a colloquial expression, "straight."

With some it is sheer force of character, with others lack of temptation. Meredith says "The happy accident of the absence of opportunity has helped to the rescue of many eminent virgins at critical moments."

Then again the sure disapproval of family and friends, the certain ostracism that attends a serious departure from the accepted code of behaviour, consciously or unconsciously acts as a powerful deterrent. In a word, HOME AND FAMILY life is at once a shield and a deterrent. The WANT of these things is the cause of many girls going astray. Another interesting fact is that between one-quarter and three-quarters of women employed in London shops are CASUAL hands.

What a little word to write, but what a great deal it involves. CASUAL! They may be employed next week, and they may not, it is an impossibility to save sufficient to keep them while they are waiting to be taken on again; and what are they to do?

Starvation is a hard school, and who shall condemn if hunger and want drives a woman to the last dread refuge of the streets.

Capitalist society, as I said before, has and is trying to deal with the problem or problems, for venereal disease is inseparably linked with prostitution. Upon this point, such recognised authorities as Professors Neisser, of Breslau, Finger, of Vienna, Pinkus and Dr. Julius Engels Reimer are agreed; and in one sentence their opinion on the subject can be expressed—"Venereal disease is the certain harvest of any degree of promiscuity in the sex relationship." It is undoubtedly owing to the fact that the reformers realise this, that the various measures have

been instituted to check prostitution.

It is a popular idea that registration and licensed houses would prove an effective remedy. However, certain countries which have adopted registration, have by no means succeeded in solving the problem.

Medical authorities are unanimous in agreeing that venereal disease is MORE prevalent in cities which are regulated in this way; and proof is supplied by the fact that physicians, eager to qualify as specialists in venereal disease, resort to Paris, Vienna and Berlin, all regulated cities, BECAUSE THERE DISEASE IS FOUND IN RICHEST VARIETY AND

GREATEST ABUNDANCE.

Another phase of prostitution is its cost to the State, the reason why the bourgeoisie reformers tinker with the problem. In this direction, Tosh has computed its cost to the German Empire at 300 and 500 million marks per year, compared with 200 million and 500 million for the whole of its educational system, including universities, secondary schools, elementary schools, technical and professional institutes of all kinds.

The evil is great and deep rooted, and few are those who have dared to battle with the problem. Those great, rich and well organised religious bodies, that prate so much of their efforts on behalf of suffering humanity, what has been their contribution towards healing of this festering sore? Futile prayers and costly churches wherein to preach the social cureall—Christianity. Prayers, forsooth! as though if prayers were efficacious, the claimant supplications of thousands of the prostitutes themselves, would not have ended the evil years ago. And churches, ye gods! Blatchford once wrote when a church building fund was started in London, "They want £30,000 to build a new church in which to worship their God, and in the shadow of the old one, I can buy a woman's soul for less than 30 pieces of silver."

Churches, creeds and laws have failed miserably, for they all stand to buttress up the capitalist system; and this fact forces itself more and more upon the student of the problem, that Prostitution is a NECESSITY UNDER CAPITALISM; it is, in truth, a part, and necessary part, of its intricate workings.

Until society realises this, and tears down the rotten fabric of which it is composed to-day, the human race will never rid itself of the curse of prostitution and its attendant evils.

We must then organise to overthrow this vile system under which we of the working class are groaning under now, and inaugurate a new system where the workers for the first time will come into their own, and each human being will have every possible chance for mental and physical development.

You mothers who are inclined to look at your daughters and "thank God they are not as others are," I would have you remember, that there is NO ECONOMIC SECURITY for the working class. At any time home life is liable to be broken up and your daughter thrown on the world, and "virtue often trips and falls on the sharp edged rocks of poverty." Let us bring up our children to be pure and good by all means, but it is essential to work to change the system at the same time.

I am of the opinion that the idea prevalent among men folk, especially that "all women are rakes at heart," is false. At the bottom of every woman there is purity, goodness and mother love. Rotten conditions, bad environment may have choked it and stopped its growth, but it is there all the same.

Robert Service expresses this idea beautifully in his poem entitled, "The Artist's Model":—

"I took me a woman from the streets,
Shameless, but, Oh, so fair.
I bade her sit in the model's seat,
And I painted her sitting there.

I hid all trace of her heart unclean,
I painted a babe at her breast;
I painted her as she might have been,
If the WORST had been the BEST.

She laughed at my picture and went away,
Then came with a knowing nod;
A connoisseur, and I heard him say,
'Tis Mary, the Mother of God.'

So I painted a halo around her hair,
I sold her and took my fee;
And she hangs in the Church of St.
Hilare,
As you and all may see."

Fellow workers, when you are ready, there will be no "worst"; you can drive prostitution, venereal disease, drunkenness, misery and poverty away for ever. Don't you think it's up to you to start right away?

The receipt of a copy of this paper is an invitation to become a subscriber.

Push the "I. S."

GET SUBS FOR THE "I. S."

THE FORCES OF OPPRESSION WILL ALWAYS ASSIST THEIR LACKEYS.

The Australian Socialist Party.



NEWS AND NOTES.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

A special combined meeting of the C. E. & the Press Committee was held on Saturday, the 16th inst., to consider several important matters in relation to the press. A report of the business and the decisions arrived at has been sent to all branches, and we hope they will energetically support the suggestions contained therein.

We hope to deal further with the unity proceedings in our next issue. A further motion on the matter has been received from Melbourne, and will be dealt with at next meeting of the C. E.

The response to the appeal to unattached sympathisers in outlying districts to join up as members-at-large has been very encouraging, and from the number of enquiries received it is apparent that the roll of such members will be considerably augmented in the very near future.

Next meeting of Central Executive will be held on Saturday, the 23rd.

A. S. REARDON,
General Secretary.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

Another speaker having failed to turn up, owing to illness, Comrade E. Hanks at almost a moment's notice, ably took the absentee's place, and gave a splendid address on "The Economic Basis of Conscription"; the idea of which, he said, comes from the material forces of production.

Having explained briefly how the working class gets back for food, shelter and clothing, only a third of what they produce, the rest going to the owners and controllers of the means of production, the capitalist class, he said, "it is in the struggle for markets that wars alone can be explained."

Up to about 1885 the dominant industry in modern capitalism was textiles, and the struggle between nations for markets, not territory. With the development of iron and steel, there has been an evolution in the forces of capitalism. Steel and iron mean railways, and it is necessary for the steel trusts to own or control territory in which their railways are laid. Hence each nation concerned must have armies to force smaller or weaker nations to grant charters or concessions for railways. Diplomacy means watching capitalist interests abroad. In Algiers, for instance, there was diplomatic trouble when French and German steel interests came into conflict. Great Britain's interests were more powerful, and Germany withdrew.

The Bagdad railway was built by Germany to capture iron resources in Abyssinia. Imperialism means colonisation without interference of other nations. The late (imperialistic) Federal Labor Government sent out the Australian navy to seize islands in the Pacific, in the interests of the capitalist; NOT the working class.

Conscription is necessary in the interests of the capitalist class.

In aid of party funds, a fancy dress ball will be held in this Hall on Wednesday, July 18th. Tickets may be had from the Social Committee or other members.

The following motion was carried at last general meeting:—

"That we, the Victorian branch of the A. S. P., convey our appreciation of the efforts of the General Executive in their desire to bring about Socialists' political unity with the G.L.P. Further, seeing that the overtures have again come from the A.S.P., acting in harmony with the wish of the S.L.P. (that unity, where possible, of all political parties of Socialism in their respective countries be brought about) we urge the General Executive not to close negotiations, as the name of a paper not being a fundamental issue, can hardly be considered of such importance to allow of deadlock."

J. M., Press Cor.

SOCIALIST HALL

369 Pitt Street.

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING, DANCE.

LECTURE EVERY SUNDAY EVENING

THE GREAT CITY.

By WALT WHITMAN.

A GREAT city is that which has the greatest men and women.
If it be a few ragged huts it is still the greatest city in the whole world.

The place where a great city stands not the place of stretch'd wharves, docks, manufactures, deposits of produce merely.
Nor the place of ceaseless salutes of newcomers, or the anchor-lifters of the departing.
Nor the place of the tallest and costliest build-or shops selling goods from the rest of the earth.
Nor the place of the best libraries and schools, nor the place where money is plentiful.
Nor the place of the most numerous population.

Where the city stands with the brawniest breed of orators and bards,
Where the city stands that is beloved by these and loves them in return and understands them,
Where no monuments exist to heroes, but in the common words and deeds,
Where thrift is in its place, and prudence is in its place,
Where the men and women think lightly of the laws,
Where the slave ceases, and the master of slaves ceases,

Where the populace rise at once against the never-ending audacity of elected persons,
Where fierce men and women pour forth as the sea to the whistle of death pours its sweeping and unripped waves,
Where outside authority enters always after the precedence of inside authority,
Where the citizen is always the head and ideal, and President, Mayor, Governor, and what not, are agent for pay,
Where children are taught to be laws to themselves, and to depend on themselves,
Where equanimity is illustrated in affairs,
Where speculations on the soul are encouraged,
Where women walk in public procession in the streets the same as the men,
Where they enter the public assembly and take places the same as the men;
Where the city of the faithfulest friends stands,
Where the city of the cleanliness of the sexes stands,
Where the city of the best-bodied mothers stands,
There the great city stands.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

The lecture on Sunday, June 17th, was delivered by Mr. McLaggan, his subject being "National Guilds."

The speaker dealt in a very interesting manner with the aims and objects of the Guilds, showing their relation to the Trades Union Movement, and explaining the difference between them and the Revolutionary Socialist organisations.

The subject was practically a new one to most of the audience, and was listened to with keen interest.

Questioned, and a lively discussion followed the lecture.

Street meetings on Sunday night are continuing successfully, and the Branch speakers are starting this week to hold a meeting in Park-street every Saturday night.

Paper sales are good, but as I emphasise every week they could do much better if members would roll up and give a hand as salesmen.

Dances are still going strong; and it is decided to hold a concert and dance in Leigh House shortly, for propaganda funds. The date will be announced later.

M. REARDON (Min. Sec.).

"Come, then, cast off fooling.
And put by ease and rest,
For the Cause alone is worthy,
Till the good days bring the best."

A. S. P.

PRINCIPLES AND POLICY.

Objective.

The Social ownership and control of the means of production and distribution.

Statement of Principles.

The present form of Society rests on private ownership of the land and the machinery (tools) of production.

The owners of most of the land and machinery of production constitute what is economically known as the capitalist class. Hence the use of the term, "The capitalist form of society."

This form of ownership divides society in all countries into two distinct and opposing classes—the capitalist class and the working class.

The working class produces all the wealth of society, whilst it only receives sufficient to enable it to carry on production (i.e. a living wage). The rest of the wealth is appropriated by the capitalist class, and is known as surplus value.

Thus a conflict of interests is set up over the division of this wealth, each class striving to obtain possession of a greater portion. This conflict of interests begets a never-ceasing struggle known as the class war, some section or other of the working class being ever engaged in actual conflict.

Political Action and the State.

The struggle forces the workers to organise on the industrial field. But this organisation inevitably produces political consequences.

The State, that combination of legal, judicial and coercive forces, which is directed by parliament (the executive of the capitalist system), is the weapon with which the capitalist class defeats the workers on the industrial field. Finding themselves in conflict with the State, the workers are forced to find political expression for their economic organisations.

Inasmuch as industrial action produces its political reflex, the A.S.P. recognises the use of revolutionary political action on the above basis, as distinct from the palliative-mongering parliamentarism of non-revolutionary parties, to be essential to the complete overthrow of the capitalist system.

Political action then is only of value to the working-class, so far as it truly reflects its organised industrial power.

As to Unionism.

The A.S.P. aims and declares for Industrial Unionism as against craft or sectional unionism, for whereas the specialisation of the processes of production, the invention of machinery, and the concentration of ownership into fewer and fewer hands, makes craft unionism unable to cope with this economic development, and ever growing power of the em-ment in the evolution of capitalist production, i.e., the organised labor expressions of lower forms of tools, the A.S.P. therefore declares that to-day this organisation has outlived its usefulness, and has created crafts and sections amongst the working class in the same industry, and this contradiction in industrial development allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set in the same industry, and industry against industry, thereby defeating one another when waging war against the encroachments of the capitalist class, with their superior and higher developed organisations. And in view of this economic development the working class must organise in such a manner as will correspond to the development of the tools of production.

The A.S.P. therefore affirms that industrial unionism in contradistinction to craft unionism is that form of organisation which is based upon the recognition of the class struggle, and through which all its members in one industry or in all industries, if necessary, can act as a unit on the industrial field.

The A.S.P. therefore endorses the 1916 preamble of the W.I.U.

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